

**Quarterly Issues and Programming Report
October 2009 thru December 2009**

WTNH/News Channel 8

1. Community Issues
2. Health
3. Education
4. Crime
5. Consumer Issues
6. Government, economy, and law

Community Issues:

October:

10/09/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :25

"NL Park Renovated"

New London's Columbus Circle Park gets a makeover. The new and improved 'parklet' at the corner of Bank and Blinman Streets will be unveiled during a ceremony on Saturday. The marble statue of Christopher Columbus was donated to the city in 1928 to honor New London's Italian-American community. Personalized engraved pavers... which will be placed in the park... will be sold to raise money for the New London Beautification Committee.

10/11/09: Good Morning Connecticut Weekend - :20

"Columbus Day Parade"

Columbus Day is tomorrow... and thousands will gather to celebrate in East Haven. The Columbus Day Parade is kicking off this afternoon... and it's an event that brings the whole community together.

10/25/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :20

"Toys for Tots"

It was all about kids on Christmas today even though it was a balmy 60 degrees in October. The *law enforcement only* motorcycle club the arresting souls, joined forces with other riders for a toy run...to benefit the u-s marine corps toys for tots drive. The fellas and ladies rode from the Foxon Community Center in East Haven to North Haven where they handed over the unwrapped toys.

November:

11/04/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 1:30

"Waterbury Food Pantry"

Firefighters are always quick to help and now are opening their houses to collect food to re-stock food pantries. To help re-stock food pantries, Waterbury and a dozen other fire departments will act as drop off centers for donations of non perishable foods. All the food collected on Saturday as part of A Day of Caring and Compassion will be split between the state's two food distribution centers.

11/12/09: Good Morning Connecticut 5am - :30

"Hartford Fight Against Violence"

Some people in Hartford are stepping up... in hopes of stopping violence in the community. Two groups... 'Families United by Tragedy' and 'United Against Violence' came together in the North End of the city yesterday. These groups and other similar groups have marched and rallied in the Capitol City in the past. Some believe it will take even *more* demonstrations to really make a difference. Many of these groups say they're frustrated by the attention they see being

given in the media to cases like the murder of Annie Le at Yale and the stabbing death Jasper Howard at UConn.

11/19/09: Good Morning Connecticut 6am - :45

"Food Basket Drop Off"

A Hamden church is helping families in need this holiday season in the Greater New Haven area. The Anointed Tabernacle Ministries church is handing out one-hundred food baskets ... including turkeys and all the fixings. The congregation made up of New Haven residents.... is trying to provide support to the community in these tough economic times. Members of the church and New Haven's Helene Grant Head Start Program are working together to make the holiday a little easier for families in need.

11/29/09: Good Morning Connecticut Weekend - :15

"Soup Kitchen Fundraiser"

Last year... the Community Soup Kitchen provided nearly 65 thousand meals to New Haven's hungry. The need is even greater this year and one New Haven restaurant is lending a helping hand with its 3rd annual fundraiser to benefit the soup kitchen. Joining us this morning to tell us how we can help... David O'Sullivan, the Director of the Community Soup Kitchen... and Santa Christy Mulhall. The information for the fundraiser is as follows - Christy's Fundraiser for Community Soup Kitchen - December 3rd - 5 PM - 9 PM – Christy's Irish Pub, 261 Orange St., New Haven. For more, log onto our website at wtnh dot com.. and click on the good morning Connecticut weekend section.

December:

12/01/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 6am - :20

"World Aids Day"

Organizers say the national debate on health care reform will be a central theme at this year's World AIDS Day event in Hartford. Today commemorates the 20th world aids day. This starts at 11am at the Connections Drop-in Center in the Institute for Community Research. New haven is also holding an event at the United Church of Christ on the New Haven Green at noontime. State health department figures estimate nearly 20-thousand people in Connecticut have the HIV virus and more than 10,000 are living with HIV/AIDS.

12/04/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 5am - :15

"Hartford Gun Buyback"

Three hospitals in Hartford are working with the city of Hartford to stop gun violence. They are kicking off a gun buyback program tomorrow. They are giving away 75, 50 and 25- dollar gift cards for Kohl's Department Stores to people who turn in guns. The actual buy-back is being held at the Community Renewal Team on Windsor Street in Hartford.

12/23/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 2:00

"Wednesday's Child"

We first met this week's Wednesday's child back in October. Brian is a talkative 12- year- old... with a sense of humor and a mean fastball. News Channel Eight's Ted Koppy caught up with him at the New England Baseball Academy in Waterbury. It doesn't take long to see that Brian has as much going for him off the field as on it. He likes baseball -- in fact he likes a lot of sports -- but they're just one of *many things he enjoys. He's a good student, likes history, computers, video games and he likes reading Fiction, science fiction, fantasy. Brian has played on baseball and football teams in the past but lately has turned his attention to working hard in another setting -- with his clinicians and social workers... getting ready to be part of a forever family. They say he has made a lot of progress. "I see him doing best in a family where he's the only child, or where there's older siblings -- kind of like a role model for him. A family that's active that likes to go out

and do things." And while Brian no longer lives with his biological family, he still wants to maintain connections with them. So we know he's got a good arm/swing. But Brian's biggest strength is his charm. "Brian is very charismatic. He's great with adults conversationally." "How would you describe yourself to somebody who never met you before?" "Funny, kind, active, helping." Qualities that will develop even further with the love and support of a family. In Waterbury, Ted Koppy, News Channel 8. If you are interested in adopting Brian or if you'd just like to learn more about becoming a foster parent call the number on your screen. It is: 800-842-6348. You can also go to our website at wtnh-dot-com.

12/31/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm - :20

"Cornwall Farm Fire"

The owners of Dairy farm in Cornwall will begin a new year by rebuilding what they lost in the old one. Fire ripped through a barn packed with cows this morning on Town Street. The animals made it out safely and the fire chief tells us the owners will find NO SHORTAGE OF HELP rebuilding IN THIS TIGHT KNIT COMMUNITY.

Health:

October:

10/08/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm - :20

"Old Lyme Water"

Water worries in Old Lyme - have students drinking bottled water as a precaution. Total coliform was detected during routine tests of the wells, which supply water to four schools, town hall, and the fire department. This doesn't mean there is E-Coli in the water but rather it indicates there is a 'possibility' of some type of bacteria. The schools have turned off water fountains and are providing bottled water to students. The water system has been chlorinated and flushed out. Tests are expected to be done on the water tomorrow, and results could come back next week.

10/12/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 1:45

"Cheek Bone Surgery"

You are looking at a first-of-its-kind, experimental surgery that has changed a boy's life and is offering new possibilities for millions of others. The patient, 15 year old Brad Guilkey, has a rare genetic condition that left him - from birth - with no cheekbones. It made everyday kid stuff like Basketball quite risky; one shot to the face could crush his eyeball. This surgery - which took place in May is allowing brad to literally grow his own cheekbones. In the 8-hour operation at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, doctors implanted cadaver bone into brad's face as a sort of scaffolding. Then they injected brad's own stem cells into the donor bone. A few months later Brad still has a few surgeries to go but he feels like he has his life back. From a medical standpoint it's already a miracle.

10/29/09: News Channel 8 at 12pm – 1:44

"H1N1 Diagnosis and Treatment"

The City of Waterbury and its two hospitals are getting on the same page as they respond to the growing outbreak of H1/N1. Waterbury and St. Mary's Hospitals are establishing a series of new policies - primarily designed to keep as many people healthy as possible.. by keeping swine flu out of their buildings. Since the virus has been spreading more quickly in younger people, starting November 2nd, the two hospitals are prohibiting people 18 and under from visiting loved ones in the Intensive Care Units, Neonatal Intensive Care Units, and Family Care/Women & Infant Centers. The hospitals are also discouraging people with mild flu symptoms from visiting the Emergency Room. If you're not extremely sick, you're not going to be tested for H1/N1. For one thing, doctors say the tests are unreliable. For another, most people who have the H1/N1 virus have only a mild illness and can be treated at home with sort of whatever mom used to say,

plenty of rest, lots of fluids and taking medicines to control your fever. Now if you have more serious symptoms, doctors want to see you. In children they include: Fast or labored breathing, bluish or grayish skin, poor interaction, symptoms improve then return. And in adults: Labored breathing, pain in chest and symptoms improve then return. Doctors say there's a fine line between panic and concern – they're encouraging the latter. Stay home if you're sick, cover your cough and sneeze, and -- as you've heard a million times wash your hands.

November:

11/02/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :25

"Flu Vaccine Safety"

Independent health advisers will begin monitoring the safety of the H1N1 flu vaccine. Specialists are not expecting problems with the shot because it is made the same way as the seasonal flu vaccine. But the government is taking extra steps to track the health of millions of Americans to spot any problems quickly. The specially appointed group of experts will hold private meetings to raise the red flag if the government misses anything.

11/08/09: News Channel 8 at 12pm - :40

"Healthcare Roadblock"

To the latest now on nation's historic Health Care Overhaul... and the key part Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman will likely play. All eyes are on the senate today to see how it will respond to the bill that passed through the house over the weekend expanding insurance coverage to 36 million Americans at a cost of one point one trillion dollars. Lieberman usually votes with the democrats but is sounding more like he'll side with republicans. The switch may cause democrats to lose their 60 vote filibuster proof majority. Friction over how the bill treats abortion, which almost derailed the House vote, is likely to divide the Senate as well.

11/28/09: Good Morning Connecticut Weekend - :30

"Diabetes to Double"

In health news this morning, there are startling new numbers about diabetes in our country. A new study says the number of Americans with diabetes will nearly double in the next 25 years. The study by the University of Chicago concludes 44.1 million Americans will be living with diabetes by 2034. What's more the cost of treating them will triple. Taking inflation into account the annual cost to treat diabetes will grow from 113 billion dollars to 336 billion dollars. Researchers say the reasons for the increase are an aging population and high levels of obesity.

11/30/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :30

"CT Aids Day"

Health care reform will be highlighted during this year's World AIDS Day event in Hartford tomorrow. State Health department figures estimate that nearly 20-thousand people in Connecticut have the HIV virus and more than ten-thousand are 'living with' HIV AIDS. 'World AIDS Day' is marked with events to remember people who have died of the illness and push for research into a cure.

December:

12/14/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :25

"FTD"

Imagine being in the prime of your life and then realizing you're losing your ability to communicate and reason. And what's worse, your diagnosis is fatal. Thousands of people are affected by a condition known as "Fronto-Temporal-Dementia" or FTD. Doctors say the condition presents itself like Alzheimer's... but it's different. Families of those with FTD say the condition 'robs' their loved ones of their personality. Doctors say FTD is a 'degenerative disorder' that damages the cells in

the frontal lobes of the brain. It eventually leaves patients in a state of confusion and helplessness.

12/16/09: News Channel 8 at 12noon - :25

“Drinking Fat”

The New York city public health department has a new in-your-face ad campaign against sugary soft drinks. It shows a man open a soda can pour what looks like a glass full of fat and drink it. New York's health commissioner says the message is that a can of soda a day can add up to 10 pounds a year. The American Beverage Association CALLS the campaign irresponsible.

12/21/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :25

“Cancer and Kids”

When cancer strikes a family the topic can be tough for children to understand. But experts say talking about it benefits everyone involved. Tess Hamermesh was just four years old when she was told her grandmother had cancer. Even more questions followed when a grandfather died of cancer. That's why Tess and her grandmother have written a book, "Nana, what's cancer." The book is published by the American Cancer Society. The hope is it will encourage adults and children to share worries and joys as they live with cancer.

12/28/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 1:30

“Obesity and Heart Attacks”

Americans gain an average of about 1 pound over the holidays, but the real problem is that this extra weight does not go away during the year. The pounds start to add up, and this is part of the reason that two thirds of the country is either overweight or obese. The excess weight is hard on the heart, and new research finds simply carrying additional pounds in middle age brings greater health risks. Doctors in Sweden studying middle-aged men discovered those who were overweight or obese were more likely to suffer heart attacks, strokes, and premature death - even if they had no metabolic problems such as high blood sugar and elevated cholesterol. Compared to normal weight men with no metabolic issues, otherwise healthy overweight men had a 30% greater risk and obese men had a 200% greater risk for premature death. The researchers say the findings prove obesity on its own is a health problem - possibly due to excess abdominal fat surrounding the internal organs.

Education:

October:

10/02/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm - :25

“Education Stimulus Dollars”

Those federal stimulus dollars apparently are not going toward the nation's schools. An internal watchdog at the federal Education Department says Connecticut and other states are using the stimulus money to plug budget holes instead of boosting aid for schools. It means, instead of getting extra help to weather tough times school districts and colleges could wind up with the same level of state aid.

10/14/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :35

“Waterbury Students Suspended”

Parents in Waterbury are bringing their safety concerns to the Board of Education. Last week, twelve students were suspended after an incident on a school bus involving fifth graders and a five-year old girl. One fifth grader is accused of luring the five year old to the back of the bus... and subjecting her to inappropriate sexual behavior while eleven other children laughed. Parents

are now urging the board to re-examine the district's bus policies. Among the ideas: adding bus monitors and requiring younger children to ride in the front of the bus.

10/21/09: News Channel 8 at 12pm - :20

"Cost of an Education"

Parents brace yourselves. The cost of college is going up again. The average tuition at a four year public college is up more than six percent to just over seven thousand dollars a year. Tuition at private schools is up four percent to an average of more than 26-thousand dollars a year. Experts blame state funding trouble and dropping enrollment.

November:

11/02/09: Good Morning Connecticut 6am - :20

"Saving Teachers Jobs"

Some Connecticut officials say federal stimulus money has helped save more than five thousand teaching jobs in our state. Connecticut has received just over 600 million in stimulus money so far. Some of that money went to soften budget cuts to education aid for cities and towns. One federal report is scolding Connecticut for using stimulus money to fill budget holes.

11/05/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :20

"Naugatuck Teachers Vote:

Word tonight is that teachers in Naugatuck are being asked to make concessions to make up for a one-million dollar budget shortfall. Teachers are being asked to defer two days worth of pay this year and to take an unpaid furlough day. That's in addition to giving up eight-hours of common planning time. The union is expected to vote tomorrow on the board of education's proposal. The teachers say there is no guarantee they will avoid layoffs.

11/17/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - ::15

"Magnet School Transport"

The Hartford board of education is taking up a cost cutting measure this evening that will affect every magnet school student who lives in a suburb but takes the bus to school. The money needed to keep those buses rolling will run out in a matter of weeks.

11/20/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :40

"Barnum Financial"

A couple of local students are getting a head start on paying for their college educations. Storm Team 8's Gil Simmons and the Sky Max mobile weather lab visited the Luis Munoz Marin School in Bridgeport and the Riverfield Elementary school in Fairfield today. One student from each of those schools received one thousand dollars towards their future college educations for the Barnum Financial group. 7 year old Rosa Rodriguez was the winner at the Marin School... and 8 year old Madison Lee was the recipient at Riverfield. The children won for their essays on 'What the American Dream Means to Me'.

December:

12/01/09: News Channel 8 at 12noon – 1:25

"Naugatuck School Plan"

Many expected the Naugatuck School Board meeting to get ugly. The Mayor and the teacher union both wanted the Superintendent to resign, and the Board had to figure out how to close a 2 million dollar budget gap. But the Superintendent is not going to resign, and he says the meeting did not get ugly. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson\Naugatuck Schools Superintendent: "They had an agenda, they had some things they had to work on and they just stuck to the agenda and it took a

little bit longer than everyone expected, but the outcome was great." While the public waited, the Board met in private to hammer out a proposal to make up most of the two million. The bulk of it comes from changing health insurance. The assumption is that will save almost half the money. Mayor Robert Mezzo\ (D) Naugatuck: "Yeah, there's a lot of assumptions and that savings is calculated based on three different bargaining units agreeing to a very different health insurance plan." If the unions agree to it, the Board calculates the insurance changes will save 892 thousand dollars. Various concessions from the teachers union like furlough days get them another 543 thousand. Furlough days for other employees will be about another 58 thousand. And doing without new textbooks saves about 40 thousand dollars. Naugatuck's Mayor says those number are preliminary and may change or might not work at all. Mayor Robert Mezzo\ Naugatuck: "I have my doubts. I have my doubts because, as I said, you're asking people who have lost confidence in the leadership of our educational community to make concessions, some of which have significant ramifications in terms of their health care." Dr. John Tindall-Gibson\ Naugatuck Schools Superintendent: "It's a difficult situation that all school districts are facing. It's playing itself out differently in different communities..." But Naugatuck's school budget problems were big enough to bring people protesting in the streets last week. The Mayor agrees that times are tough all over. Mayor Robert Mezzo\ (D) Naugatuck: "But I don't know of other Boards of Education that have million dollar holes followed up from a one million dollar deficit from last fiscal year."

12/14/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 6am - :35

"Holiday Observance"

Today the Waterbury Board of Education is set to talk about a possible new holiday policy. That's according to the Waterbury Republican-American. The meeting comes in response to the uproar over what some consider restrictions on celebrating Christmas at Walsh Elementary School. Right now the school does not display any secular... nor religious symbols of Christmas. The parent liaison at the school says its been that way for years...and this is the first time they've seen complaints

12/21/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 1:25

"Hooker School Opening"

Today was Move in day for teachers at a new School in New Haven. And tomorrow students will begin classes at the new Worthington Hooker School. The state of the art school has been under construction for nearly two years. And School officials are thrilled about their new high-tech facility. A ribbon cutting ceremony is set for 8:15 tomorrow morning. When the new Worthington Hooker Middle School opens on Monday, Principal will be greeting students from behind a different gate - a gate that some neighbors had sought to keep closed. Principal Robert Rifenburg greeted middle school students on a chilly morning this week at a gate at the school's temporary residence, in the parking lot of the St. Stanislaus' church on State Street. On Monday, he'll greet the kids at the new, \$36.5 million Worthington Hooker School at 391 Whitney Ave. The school serves 284 kids in grades 3 to 8. The school is set to open on Monday at 8:35 a.m. with a ceremony replete with a student performance and appearances by Frosty the Snowman and the Gingerbread Man. When the new school opens, many Hooker parents are looking forward to walking their kids to school, as the school site moves closer to their homes. Since Hooker is a neighborhood school, there will be hardly any buses - just a special education bus and two smaller buses. About 60 percent of Hooker students live in East Rock. The Hooker School district is pretty small, and most kids live quite close to the school, Clark pointed out. Clark said the school district is putting together recommended routes for "walking buses" - groups of parents and kids who would walk to school every day, picking up other kids along the way. He said he expects some form of walking bus to be up and running in the spring. Students and staff are looking forward to major improvements at their new school. It has a separate cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasium, as well as a science lab. That will mean more space for the students, who have been cramped into swing spaces for years.

Crime:

October:

10/03/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :25

"Death Penalty"

Opponents of the death penalty are planning a rally at the state capital tomorrow they will gather to kick off a public education campaign about what they say are flaws in capital punishment flaws. Civil rights advocates, religious leaders and families of crime victims will be on hand for the Abolition day... it starts at 2 PM. Earlier this year... the General Assembly voted to repeal the state's death penalty. But Governor Rell vetoed the bill and there was not enough support to override her veto.

10/13/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm - :20

"Deadly Shooting"

Hartford police are looking for the public's help in a deadly shooting. They say a man was shot 'multiple times' last night on *Mahl Street, and later died at the hospital. Police are looking for TWO men who allegedly shot and chased the victim before getting away. Anyone with information should call Hartford police or CRIMESTOPPERS AT 860 - 722-TIPS... That's 860-722 -8477.

10/21/09: Good Morning Connecticut 5am - :25

"Serial Bank Robber"

A new arrest warrant shows a Connecticut woman suspected of robbing six banks in three states last month.... returned to using cocaine and marijuana before the crimes. Thirty-four-year-old Heather Brown is now charged with violating probation. She was released from prison in May after serving two years for robbing a bank in Groton. The probation violation warrant says Brown told her probation officer that she relapsed in her drug use and was no longer employed.

10/27/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :20

"Cold Case Unit"

Eastern Connecticut has a new team that's mission is to figure out unsolved murders. The 'Day of New London' reports... The Chief State's attorney's office is teaming up with local police departments and the New London state's attorney. These so-called 'Cold crime units' have been successful in other parts of the state. More than a dozen people have been convicted... since the first of the 'cold case units' were set up in the state 11 years ago.

November:

11/11/09: News Channel 8 at 12pm - :15

"Police Officer Shot"

Shot in the line of duty when called to investigate a crime - A Hartford police officer ends up the victim of ONE. He was shot twice while chasing down a suspicious man. Right now, Dwayne Powell is in the lockup at Hartford Police Headquarters. Police were going to question Powell early this morning, but he ran off. That started a chase that ended with an officer in the hospital and Powell behind bars.

11/15/09: Good Morning Connecticut 6am - :25

"Jovin DNA"

Officials say DNA evidence hoped to find the person who killed 21-year old Yale, student Suzanne Jovin, is no good. That's according to the Hartford Courant. The courant says DNA scrapings found under one of Jovin's fingernails was going to be used to solve the crime.

However, a lab technician reportedly contaminated a blood sample during forensic testing after Jovin was killed back in 1998. Jovin's parents have criticized the laboratory, citing understaffing and inadequate funding.

11/24/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :20

"CT Crime Stats"

A new national city crime survey is out and it says Hartford is the 24th most dangerous city in the country. Bridgeport is 44th and Stamford came in at 302nd. There was no ranking for New Haven.

December:

12/04/09: News Channel 8 at 12noon - :25

"Jovin Anniversary"

At Yale University today they'll take some time to remember Suzanne Jovin -- a student who was murdered 11 years ago. The crime has become one of New Haven's most frustrating cold cases. Jovin was stabbed to death -- her body, found in the city's East Rock neighborhood. Police recently reopened the case -- even thought they'd pinpointed some forensic evidence. But they've never been able to identify Jovin's killer.

12/11/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :30

"Trumbull Drug Bust"

In Trumbull... snow on a truck's windshield ... leads police to a 'cache' of drugs and stolen goods. The snow almost completely covers the windshield of this truck and that's how the driver was driving down Main Street in Trumbull. Police pulled it over and that's when they noticed a strong smell of marijuana. 27-year-old Christopher Frazao was arrested. A search warrant led police to his home where they say they found four pounds of pot, more than 17-thousand in cash... and a huge stash of merchandise believed to be stolen in burglaries -- something the town has seen 'a lot of' lately. But it was at Frazao's home last September that another crime occurred. He called 911 saying four men tried to get into his home and kill him. He fought them off and they were quickly caught by police. 29-year-old Michael O'Brien was arrested but he told police his brother died after Frazao sold him drugs. Police tell us they couldn't get a search warrant on just an accusation so they never went into the home and never found the drugs or the allegedly stolen items until a year later.

12/29/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm - :25

"Wallingford Murder Arrest"

Breaking news out of Wallingford. A New York City man is arrested today for a brutal rape and murder in that city 23-years ago. 45 year old Kevin Benefield is behind bars right now. He's accused in the 1986 rape and murder of Barbara Pelkey. It's a crime in which the wrong man -- Kenneth Ireland -- served twenty one years in jail for, but was then released when DNA tests cleared him.

Consumer Issues:

October:

10/09/09: News Channel 8 at 12pm - :40

"Credit Cards Bill of Rights"

A lot of credit card companies have been accused of charging consumers ADDITIONAL fees and higher interest rates before new legislation preventing that goes into effect in February. Now lawmakers are thinking about forcing banks to comply sooner than planned. If approved, the new credit card holder bill of rights would go into effect in December. Banks argue that heightened

fees are necessary in order to continue to provide credit in a rocky economy. Democrats are also pushing for a new consumer financial protection agency which would enforce regulation on the financial industry.

10/20/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 5am - :20

"Baby Food Recall"

There is a national baby food recall to tell you about. Plum Organics is recalling some of its apple and carrot portable pouch baby food because of concerns over possible botulism contamination. The product was sold individually throughout the country at Toys-R-Us and Babies-R-Us stores. The California-based company says the product did not meet the F-D-A guidelines for proper acidity level...leaving it vulnerable to botulism contamination. The recalled product has a "best by" date of May 21, 2010.

10/27/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :20

"Consumer Confidence:

There continues to be a 'disconnect' between what's happening on Wall Street and what's happening on 'Main Street'. The latest evidence: a drop in 'consumer confidence' in the month of October. The report from the 'Conference Board' shows that Americans are as worried about the state of the economy 'now' as they have been in three decades. People also have a grim outlook for the future... fearing a weakening job market and a worsening business climate.

10/30/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :30

"Milford Plant Relocates"

Rising up from the ashes a local company destroyed by fire has new life. When flames gutted "Milford Fabricating" in March, workers were left wondering about the future. It didn't take long for the company to rebuild. And today, the city officially cut the ribbon on the new facility... that has come back bigger and better than the original. After the fire, the owner of Milford Fabricating kept all of his employees on the payroll -- and now has 85 people working in the precision metal shop.

November:

11/13/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :30

"Bank Fees"

Banks will now have to get the green light before they charge those large 'overdraft fees' on ATM and Debit Card transactions. Many consumers assume they can't spend more on a debit card than is available in their account but banks allow those transactions to go through and then charge them fees of up to 35 dollars. But under a new federal rule which takes effect next July, banks will have to notify customers about overdraft services and give them the *option* of being covered. Otherwise transactions that 'overdraw' accounts will be denied.

11/24/09: News Channel 8 at 6am - 1:30

"Crib Recall"

It is the largest crib recall in American history. The consumer product safety commission has issued a recall of more than 2 million stork craft drop-side cribs - some bearing the Fisher Price logo. The problem with this crib is its drop-side feature - one side lowers to allow easier access to the baby. Its plastic hardware can break, deform, or parts can end up missing. The drop-side can also be installed upside down. All these problems can cause it to detach in one or more corners. The hardware can crack, a depression is made in the bed, and the baby's head gets caught in that depression and the baby can strangle and die. Drop-sides have been linked to four deaths and scores of injuries. Stork Craft's recall is just the latest in a series of problems that have plagued infant products. In recent years, nearly five million cribs have been recalled for a broad range of safety issues. And earlier this month, one million Maclaren strollers were recalled after twelve children had their fingertips amputated in its hinges. Most parents are not aware that

there was no requirement that the products be tested for safety before they were sold. This latest recall involves drop-side cribs manufactured between January 1993 and October 2009. The CPSC says parents should immediately stop using them until they receive a repair kit.

11/24/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 1:00

“Dangerous Toys”

In a year that has seen millions of hazardous toys recalled, the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group will release its 24th annual toy safety report, which has led to corrective action on more than 120 toys over the last two decades. Participants will demonstrate several types of toys and alert parents to the hazards they pose, such as toys with small parts, strangulation hazards, excessively loud toys and toys containing toxic chemicals.

11/30/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm – 1:40

“Cyber Monday”

A mountain of e-mails featuring "special offers" were in people's inboxes after the holiday weekend. Online retailers are doing their best to get reluctant consumers to spend big on cyber Monday. According to Consumer Reports, 30 million Americans -- or 1 out of every 6 adults -- will take advantage of internet deals this season. Roughly 97 million Americans were expected to shop online this cyber Monday, an increase of 11 million over last year. This year's internet shopping boom could be aided by the fact 30 percent of Americans have a web-enabled smart phone and that phone can help compare online deals with department store deals. More shoppers turned out on black Friday but early reports show they spent less than last year. The national retail federation says stores know it's a tough sale convincing customers to make purchases in today's economic times.

December:

12/02/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :25

“Toxic Chemical Laws”

State environmental officials in Connecticut and 2 other states say federal laws to protect the public from toxic chemicals are too weak. The states are asking for changes in federal laws to identify and regulate the most dangerous chemicals in consumer item. and elsewhere.

12/17/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :30

“Toy Dart Recall”

Thousands of toy dart guns are recalled after an eight year old child dies. The Consumer Product Safety commission says children can choke on the soft plastic darts that are part of the Action Team toy dart gun. They were made by O-K-K Trading Incorporated and sold at discount stores between December 2006 and March of this year. If you have one of these toys, call the company to return it.

12/23/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 5am - :30

“Ikea Recall”

If you've recently bought a new high chair listen up it may be part of a new recall. The IKEA "leopard" high chairs are being recalled. The store says the snaps that lock the seat into the frame can break causing a child to fall thru. If you have one you can bring it to the IKEA store for a refund.

Government, Economy, & Law

October:

10/08/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm – 2:00

“Rell Advisor”

A big controversy tonight surrounding Governor Rell, over one of her so-called "policy advisors." It's an advisor, *paid with taxpayer money, and who appears to have been giving "political advice" as well. Democrats across the board are condemning Governor Rell for spending nearly a quarter million dollars in tax payer money for a University of Connecticut professor's consulting work supposedly aimed at helping her to save the state money. Documents obtained by the 'Day' of New London, indicate that some of the research done appears to be political in nature and aimed at helping the Governor in seeking re-election next year. "The Governor employed a consultant to give her political advice." Professor Ken Dautrich says the research and advice was legitimate work that resulted in legitimate savings. But Democrats note that questioning in a focus group centered on Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who at the time was considered a possible candidate for Governor. "We didn't specifically probe about him but it happened to come up in the conversation of the one focus group that we did." Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney noted that one of Dautrich's own memos, obtained by the newspaper, seems to contradict him. It says, in part..."One participant mentioned that what a leader states one day should be the same six months down the road. When asked if Governor Rell or Attorney General Blumenthal fit these characteristics many of the participants agreed that Blumenthal fit the characteristics well." "Apparently it seems his name didn't just come up, it was asked in a comparative way." At least two of Rell's potential rivals next year are already pouncing. "Is it ethical to spend taxpayer's money on politically motivated polling and data collection?" "Taxpayer money to fund a poll about the Governor's political future is just outrageous." The Governor was not available today...but her press office issued a statement that said in part; "We worked very hard to ensure that the work he did and questions he asked were policy-based, dealing with budget, spending and taxing issues."

10/08/09: News Channel 8 at 6pm - :20

“Pratt AG files motion”

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal wants a federal judge to block the lay-offs at Pratt and Whitney. The 'A-G' has filed a motion in support of a lawsuit that has been filed by the union representing about a thousand workers, whose jobs are on the line. Pratt and Whitney plans to close its plant in Cheshire and part of its facility in East Hartford.

10/20/09: News Channel 8 at 12pm – 1:53

“Homeowners Help”

The Obama administration has rolled out an initiative to help moderate and low-income home buyers. They say it's aimed at healing two badly wounded areas of the economy: small business and housing. More now from ABC's TAHMAN BRADLEY - Leslee Ramos bought a three-bedroom townhome in Malibu Bay, Florida for \$ 255,000 three years ago. Since then, the value of the home has dropped to just \$121,000. On top of losing property value, Ramos also lost her job and now her home is in foreclosure. Ramos' story is echoed by millions of other Americans worried about losing their homes after losing their jobs. The White House is trying to take aggressive action to fix both problems. The Obama administration has unveiled a new plan to help low-income and first-time housing buyers. State housing agencies will be able to provide new mortgages with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae providing credit lines and taxpayers will once again back up the initiatives.

November:

11/03/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 5am - :25

“Afghanistan Vote”

Afghan president Hamid Karzai says he wants people from "all parts of the country" in his government. Karzai says he will welcome anyone from the opposition and institute reforms to stamp out corruption. He won a drawn-out election by default after his challenger dropped out.

Just before Karzai spoke this morning, the Taliban claimed a victory in disrupting the election process. They point to last week's deadly attack on a guest house filled with U-N Election workers.

11/05/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :15

"Lamont for Governor"

His first full day in the 'Exploratory phase' of running for Governor finds Ned Lamont lecturing students about finding a better way to run state government. He says voters made a mistake in 2006 by not electing New Haven Mayor John DeStefano as Governor. Chief Political

11/20/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :20

"NYC Mosques"

Federal prosecutors want to seize four US mosques and a New York City skyscraper owned by a non-profit Muslim organization. Prosecutors say the Alavi Foundation has been helping to illegally funnel money back to the Iranian government. A forfeiture action has been filed in federal court to seize four mosques in New York City and in Maryland, California, and Houston Texas. The government also wants to take control of a 36-story office tower on Fifth Avenue in New York.

11/30/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :20

"Home Foreclosures"

The pressure is on! The government is honing in on the mortgage industry. The Obama administration says it will crack down on mortgage companies that are failing to do enough to help borrowers at risk of foreclosure. The Treasury Department says it may fine mortgage companies. It says some companies aren't doing enough to make permanent loan modifications under the government's 75-billion dollar relief program.

December:

12/04/09: News Channel 8 at 5pm - :25

"Waterbury Job Fair"

Some people looking to break into the tax business came out to a job fair in Waterbury today. It was sponsored by Jackson-Hewitt. The company is looking to hire 30 people including tax accountants, managers and receptionists. Many applicants like Caetonia Kaiser have been in the job market for months. 'I've been searching since June and its an everyday process... very tough situation... very tough economy out there' And we're happy to report Caetonia was hired 'on the spot' today.

12/17/09: Good Morning Connecticut at 5am - :25

"Michael Moore/CT Ban"

Film director Michael Moore is lashing out at Connecticut and Senator Joe Lieberman. Today, Moore sent out a 'Tweet' saying Connecticut residents should recall Lieberman, or face a state boycott. Moore's statement comes after Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro said Lieberman is "holding healthcare hostage" and that he should be recalled. The problem with the idea is this: Connecticut does not *have a recall law for state officials. Lieberman has said he would join a Republican Filibuster if the health-care bill included a public insurance option or a provision allowing people between the ages of 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

12/29/09: News Channel 8 at 11pm - :25

"LCI Checks"

Workers with New Haven's 'livable cities initiative' spent the day responding to calls from people in the city in need of some cold weather help. State law requires landlords to provide heat systems to keep units at least 65 degrees. Inspectors check temperatures in apartments.

Landlords are required to make repairs and still face the possibility of fines or possible charges if units are found to be too cold.